

Stimulus News You Can Use

WSDOT's informal weekly update about the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

Wednesday, October 7, 2009



The stimulus story this week

A Washington state construction company secured the nation's first stimulus-funded bonding assistance for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. WSDOT applied for over \$1.3 billion in High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail funds in August and October and will await national award announcements this winter. WSDOT contractors completed stimulus-funded projects in Klickitat, Snohomish, and Pend Oreille counties in the last week. Local governments also completed three projects in three counties.

This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions):

<i>Individual highway projects</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Total funds	\$340	\$152	\$492	
Obligated funds*	\$222.6 (65%)	\$134.8 (89%)	\$357.4 (73%)	Funds FHWA approved All funds must be obligated by March 1, 2010
Projects certified	37 (100%)	153 (100%)	190 (100%)	
Projects obligated	36 (97%)	141 (93%)	177 (93%)	FHWA has approved some or all funds for the projects
Project delivery to date				
Operationally complete	13 (35%)	31 (20%)	44 (23%)	Six projects reported complete this week
Awarded	28 (76%)	134 (88%)	162 (85%)	Includes completed projects
Advertised	31 (84%)	137 (90%)	168 (88%)	Includes completed and awarded projects
Certified, awaiting advertisement	6 (16%)	16 (10 %)	22 (12%)	These projects, including several receiving surplus funds, are planned for upcoming advertisement
<i>Safety funding buckets (\$12 stimulus)</i>	Rumble strips	Cable median barrier	Total	Notes
Completed	10	0	10	10 projects completed this week
Awarded	17	6	23	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
Advertised	27	7	34	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<i>Transit projects</i>	Large urban	Small urban	Nonurban/ rural	State total/Notes
Percent of total \$179 awarded	97%	97%	100%	98%
Number of transit projects obligated	33 of 35	18 of 19	20 of 20	52 of 55 FTA counts all rural projects as one project
<i>August employment</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Payroll	\$5	\$4.3	\$9.3	Average wage is \$37/hour

August employment	State	Local	Total	Notes
Hours	130,386	121,739	252,125	Up from 144,308 total hours in July
FTEs	754	704	1,458	FTE = 173 hours per month
Individuals paid in part or total with stimulus funds	2,220	3,213	5,433	Note: Not a count of unique employees
*\$4M in state enhancement funds provided to locals. While WSDOT controls \$340M, the total for obligation authority is \$344M, which is the basis of the percentages in this table, and basis for USDOT Review on 3/01/10.				

Key issues: State

- WSDOT applied for \$1.3 billion in high speed rail funds** – On October 2, WSDOT submitted an application for Track 2 projects funded through the \$8 billion in Recovery Act funds dedicated to High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR). The primary focus of the Track 2 projects is to develop new high speed and intercity passenger rail services, including substantial upgrades to existing services. WSDOT has a total of 26 capital rail projects that qualify for Track 2 consideration, including all projects submitted in Track 1. WSDOT applied in August for nearly \$435 million in the first round of applications for Track 1 ready-to-go projects. Including the Track 2 application, WSDOT has applied for a total of more than \$1.3 billion.
 - A summary of the applications is available at the passenger rail [webpage](#).
- High speed rail award announcements delayed** – The Federal Rail Administration said October 6 it will announce the first Recovery Act HSIPR awards this winter. The first awards were expected this month. The agency will use a merit-based selection process to select projects. Twenty-four states submitted 45 applications totaling about \$50 billion, more than six times the \$8 billion available. The agency also received 214 applications from 34 states totaling \$7 billion for corridor planning and smaller projects.
- Six more Recovery Act highway projects completed** – WSDOT and local governments across Washington finished six more Recovery Act highway projects, bringing the number of completed projects to 44. The WSDOT completed projects included paving sections of US 2 in Snohomish County and Pend Oreille County and 12 miles of US 97 in Klickitat County. The cities of Naches, Marysville, and Bainbridge Island also completed projects.
 - [WSDOT – US 2/Monroe City Limit to Sultan - Paving](#)
 - [WSDOT – US 97/Centerville Road to Bickleton Road/Satus Pass – Paving](#)
 - [WSDOT – US 2/SR 211 to Newport - Paving](#)
 - [Naches – 2nd Street and 3rd Street Resurfacing Project](#)
 - [Marysville – Street Overlay Project](#)
 - [Bainbridge Island – Core 40 Shoulder Widening Program – Blakely Nonmotorized Project – Phase 2](#)

- **Washington state firm receives first Recovery Act bonding assistance** - A Native American-owned construction company in Washington was the first business in the country to receive stimulus-funded federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise bonding assistance. On September 25, the company working on a Recovery Act pedestrian improvement project in Oroville received \$13,000 toward a \$979,000 bond awarded on September 1.
 - The program helps small and disadvantaged businesses be reimbursed for bonding premiums and fees incurred when competing for or performing work on Recovery Act-funded projects. The funds reimburse companies for bonding fees and payments.
 - The Recovery Act includes \$20 million for DBE bonding assistance.
- **Washington stimulus site to post new monthly accountability reports** – The Governor’s Office of Financial Management announced it will be collecting new monthly stimulus status reports to document how the state’s agencies are delivering Recovery Act projects. The first report is due October 10. The reporting will be displayed on Washington’s stimulus website: www.recovery.wa.gov.
 - The new state report is modeled on the federal quarterly reporting for the White House’s Office of Management and Budget. The federal reports will be displayed on the national stimulus website: www.recovery.gov.
- **Two more highway projects awarded**
 - **Local projects**
 - [Port of Bremerton – Industrial Connector Phase 1](#)
 - [Clark County – NE 99th Street, SR 503 to NE 137th Ave](#)

Key issues: National

- **Reporting under way for first OMB report** – The White House Office of Management and Budget is collecting submissions for its first nationwide stimulus performance report on October 10. Agencies that received stimulus funds will submit a thorough report on project spending and job creation. The report will be available to the public later in October on www.recovery.gov.
- **House T & I Committee released a state comparison on September 30** – The U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released a ranking of states’ progress in obligating and spending Highway Infrastructure Recovery Act funds on September 30. The report is available at the committee’s [website](#). Washington State received \$492 million in stimulus dollars for highway projects. Based on information reported to the committee by other states as of August 31, Washington ranked 23rd overall. The report computes a composite score based on project dollars out to bid, under contract, and underway (these scores are weighted 25%, 25%, and 50% respectively). In individual categories, Washington ranks:
 - 19th in percentage of funds obligated
 - 12th in number of projects started, with 111
 - 8th in number of projects completed
 - 9th in percentage of funds associated with completed projects
 - 8th in job hours reported, with over 484,000

- 3rd in reported payroll, with \$18.2 million
 - Average wage is \$38 per hour compared to national average of \$28 per hour
 - All states will report again in October, November, and December.
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- **Almost 4,000 Recovery Act highway projects under construction nationwide –**
The FHWA [website](#) reported that 4,088 stimulus projects costing \$11.3 billion are under construction in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on federal lands. The FHWA has obligated \$19.2 billion of \$26.8 billion (72%) to 7,965 projects.

Stimulus project of the week

Stimulus project replaces concrete panels on I-90

If you've driven I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass during the past couple of weeks, your travel time may have been affected by the federal stimulus- funded [I-90 Lake Easton to Bullfrog Road](#) concrete panel replacement construction project between Easton (milepost 70) and near Cle Elum (milepost 80).



WSDOT and contractor crews from Gary Merlino Construction Company, Inc. from Seattle, have been working around-the-clock on the concrete preservation project since after the Labor Day holiday to complete the project before winter. Work began in July and was done mostly at night, until after Labor Day, to minimize impacts to high summer-traffic volumes. This [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (Recovery Act) project is estimated to support about 135 jobs over the life of the project.

For the \$18.4 million project, WSDOT and construction crews are replacing the deteriorated right-hand lane and shoulders of I-90 in the westbound direction with a new concrete lane and asphalt shoulders. They are also replacing severely cracked panels in the left-hand lane and grinding the surface of the road for a smoother, safer ride.

Concrete panel replacement is a complicated and time-consuming process. Crews first have to remove the old concrete in the right lane without damaging the concrete remaining in the left lane. They then prepare the dirt, pave a base lift of asphalt, lay steel dowel bars, and pour and flatten the new concrete. The final step in the process is called tinning. Crews drag a specialized rake through the damp concrete to increase the skid resistance and make a smooth ride. The concrete is then allowed to cure.

When this project is complete in November, weather permitting, drivers will experience a smoother, safer ride. The project also restores the structural integrity of I-90 and extends the life of the pavement.

WSDOT urges travelers to know before you go by visiting the project Web page to view travel graphs highlighting the best times to travel and other useful tools. While on the road, drivers can tune into the Highway Advisory Radio at 1610 AM and 530 AM and dial 5-1-1 from their hands-free device for current conditions.

Important dates

- **October 10:** WSDOT submits first new federal OMB quarterly performance report
- **October 10:** OFM collects data for its new monthly performance report
- **October 20:** Next congressional status report due
- **October 30:** [Recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) to publish OMB performance reports online

Websites of interest

- WSDOT recovery act website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus>
- Washington recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov/>
- Federal recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- FHWA recovery site: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
- Federal Transit Administration recovery site: www.fta.dot.gov/recovery
- Federal Rail Administration recovery site: www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153
- Federal Aviation Administration recovery site: <http://www.faa.gov/recovery>
- OMB recovery website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/